

WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS PATENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES:

1. A method of transmitting information to a computer having a removable medium, comprising the steps of:

5 receiving a request from the computer to download information over a network; determining whether a device of the computer having structure to write to the removable medium meets predetermined criteria and is therefore an appropriate device for writing to the removable medium; and

transmitting information to the computer in order for the device of the computer to write the information to the removable medium.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the information to the computer in order for the device of the computer to write the information to the recordable medium without writing to an intermediate storage device, when the determining step determines that the device is an appropriate device for writing to the removable medium,

the method further comprising the step of:

transmitting the information to the computer in order for the intermediate storage device to store the information followed by reading the information from the intermediate storage device and writing the information to the removable medium using the device, when the determining step 20 determines that the device is not an appropriate device for writing to the removable medium.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said determining step comprises:

determining whether the device is an appropriate device by examining state data of the device.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein said determining step comprises:

25 determining whether the device is an appropriate device by examining the state data of the device which includes at least a model number of the device.

5. A method according to claim 3, wherein said determining step comprises:  
determining whether the device is an appropriate device by examining the state data of the  
device which includes at least a manufacturer of the device.

6. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
prohibiting the transmitting of the information to the computer, when the determining step  
determines the device of the computer does not meet the predefined criteria.

7. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
determining if information is written to the removable medium; and  
the step of transmitting is performed when it has been determined that no information is  
written to the removable medium.

8. A method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of:  
prohibiting a writing of information to the removable medium, when it has been determined  
that information is written to the removable medium.

9. A method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of:  
15 notifying a user that information is written to the removable medium.

10. A method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of:  
writing the information to a memory in the computer which is other than the removable  
medium, when it has been determined that information is written to the removable medium.

11. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting comprises:  
transmitting the information to the computer in order for the device of the computer which is  
an optical disc drive to write the information to the removable medium which is an optical disc.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein the step of transmitting comprises:  
transmitting the information to the computer in order for the device of the computer which is

an optical disc drive to write the information to the removable medium which is one of a CD-R and a CD-RW.

13. A method according to claim 2, wherein the step of transmitting the information to the computer in order for the intermediate storage device to store the information comprises:

5 transmitting the information to the computer in order for the intermediate storage device which is a hard disk drive to store the information.

14. A method of recording information on a removable medium, comprising the steps of:  
receiving information by a computer;  
writing information to the removable medium using a device of the computer having structure to write to the removable medium, only if it is determined that a device of the computer having structure to write to the removable medium has structure which makes the device an appropriate device for writing to the removable medium.

15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the writing step comprises:

writing the information to the removable medium using the device, without writing to an intermediate storage device, when it is determined that the device is an appropriate device for writing to the removable medium,

the method further comprising the step of:

writing the information to the intermediate storage device followed by reading the information from the intermediate storage device and writing the information to the removable medium using the device, when it is determined that the device is not an appropriate device for writing to the removable medium.

20 16. A method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of:

determining whether the device is an appropriate device by examining state data of the device.

25 17. A method according to claim 16, wherein said determining step comprises:

determining whether the device is an appropriate device by examining the state data of the device which includes at least a model number of the device.

18. A method according to claim 16, wherein said determining step comprises:  
determining whether the device is an appropriate device by examining the state data of the  
5 device which includes at least a manufacturer of the device.

19. A method according to claim 16, wherein said determining step is performed by the computer which includes the device.

20. A method according to claim 16, wherein said determining step is performed by a remote computer which transmits the information to the computer which includes the device.

21. A method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of:  
prohibiting the writing of the information to the removable medium, when it is determined  
that the device is not an appropriate device for writing to the removable medium.  
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22. A method according to claim 21, wherein said prohibiting step comprises:  
prohibiting a downloading of the information from a remote computer, when the determining  
step determines that the device is not an appropriate device for writing to the removable medium.

23. A method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of:  
determining if information is written to the removable medium; and  
the step of writing the information to the removable medium operates when it has been  
determined that no information is written to the removable medium.

20 24. A method according to claim 23, further comprising the step of:  
prohibiting a writing of information to the removable medium, when it has been determined  
that information is written to the removable medium.

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25. A method according to claim 23, further comprising the step of:  
notifying a user that information is written to the removable medium.

5 26. A method according to claim 24, further comprising the step of:

writing the information to a memory in a computer which is other than the removable  
medium, when it has been determined that information is written to the removable medium.

27. A method according to claim 14, wherein the step of writing comprises:  
writing the information to an optical disc.

28. A method according to claim 27, wherein the step of writing comprises:  
writing the information to one of CD-R and a CD-RW.

15 29. A method according to claim 14, wherein the step of writing the information to the  
intermediate device comprises:

writing the information to the intermediate device which is a hard disk drive.

30. A method of storing information, comprising the steps of:

15 receiving information by a computer, the information including first importance information,  
and second importance information having an importance which is lower than the first importance  
information;

writing the first importance information to a hard disk drive of the computer;

writing the second importance information to a storage medium which is different from the  
hard disk drive, without writing the second importance information to the hard disk drive.

20 31. A method according to claim 30, further comprising the step of:  
requesting, by the computer, that the information be transmitted thereto.

32. A method according to claim 31, further comprising the step of:  
transmitting, to a remote computer over a network, state data of a device which writes to

the storage medium.

33. A method according to claim 32, wherein the step of transmitting state data comprises:  
transmitting the state data which includes a model number of the device.

34. A method according to claim 32, wherein the step of transmitting state data comprises:  
transmitting the state data which includes a manufacturer of the device.

35. A method according to claim 30, further comprising the step of:  
determining information of a device configured to write to the storage medium,  
wherein the step of writing the second importance information is only performed when the  
information of the device configured to write satisfies a predetermined criteria.

36. A method according to claim 30, wherein:  
the step of writing the first importance information writes computer instructions; and  
the step of writing the second importance information writes computer data.

37. A method according to claim 30, further comprising the step of:  
receiving a message from a remote computer indicating that a transmitting of information is  
prohibited, when a device configured to write to the storage medium does not satisfy predetermined  
criteria including a least one of a model number and a manufacturer.

38. A method according to claim 30, wherein:  
said step of writing the second importance information writes the second importance  
information to the hard disk drive, when a device configured to write to the storage medium does  
not satisfy predetermined criteria including a least one of a model number and a manufacturer.

39. A method according to claim 30, further comprising the step of:  
determining, before said step of writing the second importance information, that no  
information is recorded on the storage medium,

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wherein said step of writing the second importance information is performed when it is determined that no information is recorded on the storage medium.

40. A method according to claim 39, further comprising the step of:  
receiving a message from said server that said downloading operation is prohibited when a  
device which writes to said storage medium does not meet predefined criteria.

41. A method according to claim 30, further comprising the step of:  
receiving an indication that information is recorded on the storage medium, and  
said step of writing the second importance information is performed, even when the indication is received that information is recorded on the storage medium.

42. A method according to claim 41, further comprising the step of:  
providing, by a user, an instruction to perform said step of writing the second importance information, when there exists an indication that information is recorded on the storage medium.

43. A method according to claim 30, further comprising the step of:  
receiving an indication that information is recorded on the storage medium, and  
writing the first and second importance information to the hard disk drive, when there is an indication that information is recorded on the storage medium.

44. A method according to claim 30, wherein the step of writing the second importance information comprises:

writing the second importance information to the storage medium which is one of a CD-R and a CD-RW.

45. A method of transmitting information, comprising the steps of:  
receiving a request from a remote computer to download information, the information including first importance information, and second importance information having an importance which is lower than the first importance information;

transmitting the first importance information to the remote computer so that the first importance information is stored to a hard disk drive of the computer;

transmitting the second importance information to the remote computer so that the second importance information is stored to a storage medium which is different from the hard disk drive,

5 without writing the second importance information to the hard disk drive.

46. A method according to claim 45, further comprising the step of:  
receiving, from the remote computer, state data of a device which writes to the storage medium.

47. A method according to claim 46, wherein the step of receiving state data comprises:  
receiving the state data which includes a model number of the device.

48. A method according to claim 46, wherein the step of receiving state data comprises:  
receiving the state data which includes a manufacturer of the device.

49. A method according to claim 45, further comprising the step of:  
determining information of a device configured to write to the storage medium,  
15 wherein the storing of the second importance information in the storage medium is only performed when the information of the device configured to write satisfies a predetermined criteria.

50. A method according to claim 45, wherein:  
the step of transmitting the first importance information transmits the first importance information as computer instructions; and  
20 the step of transmitting the second importance information transmits the second importance information as computer data.

51. A method according to claim 45, further comprising the step of:  
transmitting a message to the remote computer indicating that a transmitting of information is prohibited, when a device configured to write to the storage medium does not satisfy predetermined

criteria including a least one of a model number and a manufacturer.

52. A method according to claim 45, wherein:

the storing of the second importance information stores the second importance information to the hard disk drive, when a device configured to write to the storage medium does not satisfy predetermined criteria including a least one of a model number and a manufacturer.

5 53. A method according to claim 45, further comprising the step of:

determining, before storing the second importance information, that no information is recorded on the storage medium,

wherein the storing of the second importance information is performed when it is determined that no information is recorded on the storage medium.

54. A method according to claim 53, further comprising the step of:

transmitting a message to the remote computer that said downloading operation is prohibited when a device which writes to said storage medium does not meet predefined criteria.

15 55. A method according to claim 45, further comprising the step of:

receiving an indication that information is recorded on the storage medium, and

said storing of the second importance information is performed, even when the indication is received that information is recorded on the storage medium.

56. A method according to claim 55, further comprising the step of:

receiving, from a user, an instruction to perform said storing of the second importance information, when there exists an indication that information is recorded on the storage medium.

20 57. A method according to claim 45, further comprising: the step of:

receiving an indication that information is recorded on the storage medium, and

storing the first and second importance information to the hard disk drive, when there is an indication that information is recorded on the storage medium.

58. A method according to claim 45, wherein the storing of the second importance information stores the second importance information to one of a CD-R and a CD-RW.

59. A system of transmitting information to a computer having a removable medium, comprising:

means for receiving a request from the computer to download information over a network;  
means for determining whether a device of the computer having structure to write to the removable medium meets predetermined criteria and is therefore an appropriate device for writing to the removable medium; and  
means for transmitting information to the computer in order for the device of the computer to write the information to the removable medium.

60. A system according to claim 59, wherein the means for transmitting comprises:

means for transmitting the information to the computer in order for the device of the computer to write the information to the recordable medium without writing to an intermediate storage device, when the means for determining determines that the device is an appropriate device for writing to the removable medium,

the system further comprising:

means for transmitting the information to the computer in order for the intermediate storage device to store the information followed by reading the information from the intermediate storage device and writing the information to the removable medium using the device, when the means for determining determines that the device is not an appropriate device for writing to the removable medium.

61. A system according to claim 59, wherein said means for determining comprises:

means for determining whether the device is an appropriate device by examining state data of the device.

62. A system according to claim 61, wherein said means for determining comprises:

means for determining whether the device is an appropriate device by examining the state

data of the device which includes at least a model number of the device.

63. A system according to claim 61, wherein said means for determining comprises:  
means for determining whether the device is an appropriate device by examining the state  
data of the device which includes at least a manufacturer of the device.

5 64. A system according to claim 59, further comprising:  
means for prohibiting the transmitting of the information to the computer, when the means  
for determining determines the device of the computer does not meet the predefined criteria.

65. A system according to claim 59, further comprising:  
means for determining if information is written to the removable medium; and  
the means for transmitting operates when it has been determined that no information is  
written to the removable medium.

66. A system according to claim 65, further comprising:  
means for prohibiting a writing of information to the removable medium, when it has been  
determined that information is written to the removable medium.

15 67. A system according to claim 65, further comprising:  
means for notifying a user that information is written to the removable medium.

68. A system according to claim 66, further comprising:  
means for writing the information to a memory in the computer which is other than the  
removable medium, when it has been determined that information is written to the removable  
20 medium.

69. A system according to claim 59, wherein the means for transmitting comprises:  
means for transmitting the information to the computer in order for the device of the  
computer which is an optical disc drive to write the information to the removable medium which is

an optical disc.

70. A system according to claim 69, wherein the means for transmitting comprises:  
means for transmitting the information to the computer in order for the device of the  
computer which is an optical disc drive to write the information to the removable medium which is  
5 one of a CD-R and a CD-RW.

71. A system according to claim 60, wherein the means for transmitting the information to  
the computer in order for the intermediate storage device to store the information comprises:  
means for transmitting the information to the computer in order for the intermediate storage  
device which is a hard disk drive to store the information.

15 72. A system for recording information on a removable medium, comprising:

means for receiving information by a computer;

means for writing information to the removable medium using a device of the computer  
having structure to write to the removable medium, only if it is determined that a device of the  
computer having structure to write to the removable medium has structure which makes the device  
an appropriate device for writing to the removable medium.

20 73. A system according to claim 72, wherein the means for writing comprises:

means for writing the information to the removable medium using the device, without writing  
to an intermediate storage device, when it is determined that the device is an appropriate device for  
writing to the removable medium,

the system further comprising:

means for writing the information to the intermediate storage device followed by reading the  
information from the intermediate storage device and writing the information to the removable  
medium using the device, when it is determined that the device is not an appropriate device for  
writing to the removable medium.

25 74. A system according to claim 72, further comprising:

means for determining whether the device is an appropriate device by examining state data of the device.

75. A system according to claim 74, wherein said means for determining comprises:  
means for determining whether the device is an appropriate device by examining the state  
5 data of the device which includes at least a model number of the device.

76. A system according to claim 74, wherein said means for determining comprises:  
means for determining whether the device is an appropriate device by examining the state  
data of the device which includes at least a manufacturer of the device.

77. A system according to claim 74, wherein said means for determining is included in the computer which includes the device.

78. A system according to claim 74, wherein said means for determining is included in a remote computer which transmits the information to the computer which includes the device.

15 79. A system according to claim 74, further comprising:  
means for prohibiting the writing of the information to the removable medium, when it is  
determined that the device is not an appropriate device for writing to the removable medium.

80. A system according to claim 79, wherein said means for prohibiting comprises:  
prohibiting a downloading of the information from a remote computer, when the means for  
determining determines that the device is not an appropriate device for writing to the removable  
medium.

20        81. A system according to claim 72, further comprising:  
means for determining if information is written to the removable medium; and  
the means for writing the information to the removable medium operates when it has been  
determined that no information is written to the removable medium.

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82. A system according to claim 81, further comprising:

means for prohibiting a writing of information to the removable medium, when it has been determined that information is written to the removable medium.

83. A system according to claim 81, further comprising:

5 means for notifying a user that information is written to the removable medium.

84. A system according to claim 82, further comprising:

means for writing the information to a memory in a computer which is other than the removable medium, when it has been determined that information is written to the removable medium.

85. A system according to claim 72, wherein the means for writing comprises:

means for writing the information to an optical disc.

86. A system according to claim 85, wherein the means for writing comprises:

means for writing the information to at least one of a CD-R and a CD-RW.

87. A system according to claim 72, wherein the means for writing the information to the intermediate device comprises:

15 means for writing the information to the intermediate device which is a hard disk drive.

88. A system of storing information, comprising:

means for receiving information by a computer, the information including first importance information, and second importance information having an importance which is lower than the first importance information;

20 means for writing the first importance information to a hard disk drive of the computer;

means for writing the second importance information to a storage medium which is different from the hard disk drive, without writing the second importance information to the hard disk drive.

89. A system according to claim 88, further comprising:  
means for requesting, by the computer, that the information be transmitted thereto.

90. A system according to claim 89, further comprising:  
means for transmitting, to a remote computer over a network, state data of a device which  
5 writes to the storage medium.

91. A system according to claim 90, wherein the means for transmitting state data  
comprises:

means for transmitting the state data which includes a model number of the device.

92. A system according to claim 90, wherein the means for transmitting state data  
comprises:

means for transmitting the state data which includes a manufacturer of the device.

93. A system according to claim 88, further comprising:

means for determining information of a device configured to write to the storage medium,  
wherein the means for writing the second importance information is only performed when  
15 the information of the device configured to write satisfies a predetermined criteria.

94. A system according to claim 88, wherein:

the means for writing the first importance information writes computer instructions; and  
the means for writing the second importance information writes computer data.

95. A system according to claim 88, further comprising:

20 means for receiving a message from a remote computer indicating that a transmitting of  
information is prohibited, when a device configured to write to the storage medium does not satisfy  
predetermined criteria including at least one of a model number and a manufacturer.

96. A system according to claim 88, wherein:

5  
said means for writing the second importance information writes the second importance information to the hard disk drive, when a device configured to write to the storage medium does not satisfy predetermined criteria including at least one of a model number and a manufacturer.

97. A system according to claim 88, further comprising:

means for determining, before said means for writing the second importance information operates, that no information is recorded on the storage medium,  
wherein said means for writing the second importance information operates when it is determined that no information is recorded on the storage medium.

98. A system according to claim 97, further comprising:

means for receiving a message from said server that said downloading operation is prohibited when a device which writes to said storage medium does not meet predefined criteria.

99. A system according to claim 88, further comprising:

means for receiving an indication that information is recorded on the storage medium, and  
said means for writing the second importance information operates, even when the indication is received that information is recorded on the storage medium.

100. A system according to claim 99, further comprising:

means for providing, by a user, an instruction to operate the means for writing the second importance information, when there exists an indication that information is recorded on the storage medium.

20 101. A system according to claim 88, further comprising:

means for receiving an indication that information is recorded on the storage medium, and  
means for writing the first and second importance information to the hard disk drive, when there is an indication that information is recorded on the storage medium.

102. A system according to claim 88, wherein the means for writing the second importance

information comprises:

means for writing the second importance information to the storage medium which is one of a CD-R and a CD-RW.

103. A system of transmitting information, comprising:

means for receiving a request from a remote computer to download information, the information including first importance information, and second importance information having an importance which is lower than the first importance information;

means for transmitting the first importance information to the remote computer so that the first importance information is stored to a hard disk drive of the computer;

means for transmitting the second importance information to the remote computer so that the second importance information is stored to a storage medium which is different from the hard disk drive, without writing the second importance information to the hard disk drive.

104. A system according to claim 103, further comprising:

means for receiving, from the remote computer, state data of a device which writes to the storage medium.

105. A system according to claim 104, wherein the means for receiving state data comprises:

means for receiving the state data which includes a model number of the device.

106. A system according to claim 104, wherein the means for receiving state data comprises:

means for receiving the state data which includes a manufacturer of the device.

107. A system according to claim 103, further comprising:

means for determining information of a device configured to write to the storage medium, wherein the storing of the second importance information in the storage medium is only performed when the information of the device configured to write satisfies a predetermined criteria.

108. A system according to claim 103, wherein:  
the means for transmitting the first importance information transmits the first importance  
information as computer instructions; and  
the means for transmitting the second importance information transmits the second  
importance information as computer data.

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109. A system according to claim 103, further comprising:  
means for transmitting a message to the remote computer indicating that a transmitting of  
information is prohibited, when a device configured to write to the storage medium does not satisfy  
predetermined criteria including a least one of a model number and a manufacturer.

110. A system according to claim 103, wherein:  
the storing of the second importance information stores the second importance information  
to the hard disk drive, when a device configured to write to the storage medium does not satisfy  
predetermined criteria including a least one of a model number and a manufacturer.

111. A system according to claim 103, further comprising:  
15 means for determining, before storing the second importance information, that no  
information is recorded on the storage medium,  
wherein the storing of the second importance information is performed when it is determined  
that no information is recorded on the storage medium.

112. A system according to claim 111, further comprising:  
20 means for transmitting a message to the remote computer that said downloading operation is  
prohibited when a device which writes to said storage medium does not meet predefined criteria.

113. A system according to claim 103, further comprising:  
means for receiving an indication that information is recorded on the storage medium,  
wherein said storing of the second importance information is performed, even when the  
25 indication is received that information is recorded on the storage medium.

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114. A system according to claim 113, further comprising:  
means for receiving, from a user, an instruction to perform said storing of the second importance information, when there exists an indication that information is recorded on the storage medium.

115. A system according to claim 103, further comprising:

means for receiving an indication that information is recorded on the storage medium, and  
means for storing the first and second importance information to the hard disk drive, when  
there is an indication that information is recorded on the storage medium.

116. A system according to claim 103, wherein the storing of the second importance information stores the second importance information to one of a CD-R and a CD-RW.

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